

Super Sniper Rifles: XM110 Semi- Automatic On The Way

Soldiers like to exchange stories about the lethality of .50 caliber sniper rifles. One story has it that the M107 Long-Range Sniper Rifle (LRSR) “reached out and touched someone” from 1,400 meters away while the insurgent hid atop a water tower with a rocket propelled grenade.

What really happens in battle we may never know for sure, but the facts about the sniper rifles that Program Executive Office Soldier's (PEO) Soldier Weapons program provides to soldiers speak for themselves: the rifles are accurate, reliable, sustainable, and the Soldier Weapons program gets them to soldiers in record time. After comprehensive testing, independent evaluation and full material release, the M107 Sniper Rifle was acquired and ready for fielding in less than 36 months, thanks to the accelerated acquisition path offered by the Soldier Enhancement Program (SEP) (see related article on p. 12).

In fact, soldier feedback drove the SEP requirements for the new XM110 Semi-Automatic Sniper System (SASS) contract. Like the M107, the XM110 is what the Army calls a Non-Developmental Item, Commercial-Off-The-Shelf product. That means that the Army



The XM110 Semi-automatic Sniper System.

“militarizes” the designs of small arms already on the market and shortens the acquisition cycle by reducing or eliminating the research and development phase. However, Soldier Weapons representatives are quick to point out that this path does not mean a relaxation of the Army’s high standards.

The SEP approach and the acquisition of these off-the-shelf products enable Soldier Weapons to validate product maturity and readiness by focusing on extensive and comprehensive technical and operational testing prior to the production phase. The test results may reveal needed modifications and enhancements. Once the weapon meets the Army’s performance criteria, it becomes part of the Army’s inventory.

LTC Kevin Stoddard, Product Manager for the Crew Served Weapons component of this program, is confident the combined industry and government team working on the XM110 will come through again for soldiers on the XM110 program. “The gun has actually been performing extremely well,” Stoddard said. “We will have technical and operational testing completed by

early summer and begin fielding the first of 4,492 XM110s by January.”

The XM110 is intended to replace the bolt-action, M24 Sniper Weapon System (SWS), but the future of the M24 is still undecided. It will depend upon an upcoming Training and Doctrine Command (TRADOC) analysis. “Ultimately, snipers will have what they need for increased survivability,” Stoddard said. “For now, we have the XM110, M107 and the M24. All are accurate, reliable and sustainable.”



| | XM110: Semi-Automatic Sniper System (SASS) | M107: Long-Range Sniper Rifle (LRSR) | M24: Sniper Weapon System (SWS) |
|--------------------------------|--|--|---|
| Accurate | 1,000m Minute of angle: 1 Recoil: 8 ft.-lb. | 1,500m Personnel 2,000m Materiel Minute of angle: 2.5 Recoil: 36 ft.-lb. | Day optic scope: 800m Day/night scope (AN/PVS 10) 800m day, 600m night w/ ¼ moon Minute of angle: 1 Recoil: 36 ft.-lb. |
| Reliable | Barrel life: > 5,000 rounds | Barrel life: > 5,000 rounds | Barrel life: > 5,000 rounds |
| Sustainable | U.S. Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. Depot support: Contractor Logistics Support, Knight's Armament Co., Vero Beach, Calif. | U.S. Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. Depot support: Contractor Logistics Support, Barrett Firearms, Inc., Murfreesboro, Tenn. | U.S. Tank-Automotive and Armaments Command Rock Island Arsenal, Ill. Depot support: Contractor Logistics Support, Remington, Inc., Ilion, N.Y. |
| First Unit Equipped | Winter 2007 | Fall 2001 | Fall 1988 |
| Mission | Target reduction and observation. As part of the Infantry battalion, snipers normally perform some portion of both missions, simultaneously. Occasionally, one mission may take precedence over the other; however, target reduction missions generally facilitate the gathering of valuable intelligence information. | To engage and defeat materiel targets at extended ranges to include parked aircraft; command, control, communications, computers and intelligence sites; radar, ammunition, petroleum, oil and lubricant sites; and various other thin-skinned (lightly armored) materiel targets. Also to be used in a counter-sniper role taking advantage of the longer stand-off ranges and increased terminal effects when opposing snipers are armed with smaller caliber weapons. | To support combat operations by delivering precise long-range fire on selected targets. |
| Accessories | 20-round magazine Variable power optic sight, 3.5-10x- 40mm Spotting scope Transport case Tactical soft case Cleaning / maintenance equipment Detachable bipod Manuals | 10-round magazine Variable power optic sight 4.5-14x- 50mm Transport case Tactical soft case Cleaning / maintenance equipment Adjustable bipod Manuals Detachable sling | 5-round internal magazine Fixed power, 10x, 40mm M3A Spotting scope M144 Transport case Sniper Accessory Kit (SAK) Cleaning / maintenance equipment Adjustable bipod Manuals Detachable sling |